

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJECT: NPG - FRG VIEWS ON NPG MINISTERIAL AGENDA

SUMMARY: GERMAN DELEGATION HAS INFORMED US THAT BONN IS GIVING THOUGHT TO IDEA OF SETTING ASIDE PART OF NPG MEETINGS FOR "FREE DISCUSSION" OF ANY SUBJECTS THAT ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO MINISTERS. DURING THIS PERIOD, MINISTERS COULD EXCHANGE VIEWS ON ANY SUBJECTS THAT ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THEM. SUCH SUBJECTS MIGHT TOUCH ONLY INDIRECTLY ON TRADITIONAL NPG CONCERNS. GERMAN REP SAID THE AIM OF SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE TO GIVE THE NPG A WIDER FIELD OF VISION. HE SAID THE FEELING IN BONN IS THAT THE NPG HAD BECOME TOO NARROW IN ITS FOCUS AND ISOLATED FROM "REAL-WORLD" ISSUES OF CENTRAL CONCERN TO MINISTERS.

2. GERMAN REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HAD ASKED HIM TO EXPLORE THESE IDEAS WITH HIS US COUNTERPARTS. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES STRESSED THAT THEY WERE NOT MAKING FIRM PROPOSALS, BUT WERE ONLY GOING THROUGH A PROCESS OF "THINKING OUT LOUD" WHICH THEY WISHED TO SHARE WITH THE US. HE RECALLED MOD LEBER'S AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS AT MONTEREY, AND WONDERED IF THE US WAS GIVING SIMILAR THOUGHT TO THE NPG.

3. MISSION OFFICER SAID THAT WE WERE GIVING THOUGHT TO HOW

THE NPG DOES THINGS, IN LIGHT OF THE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS AT MONTEREY. HE SAID THE IDEAS OF THE GERMAN REP'S AUTHORITIES IN BONN WERE INTERESTING AND SEEMED TO REFLECT SOME OF THE SAME CONCERNS WE HAVE HAD. HE ASSURED THE GERMAN REP THAT HE WOULD SHARE THESE IDEAS WITH OTHER US OFFICIALS.

4. GERMAN REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD WELCOME OUR REACTIONS, AND STRESSED AGAIN THAT HE WAS ONLY PASSING ALONG IDEAS, AND NOT PROPOSALS. HE SAID HE WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSING THESE IDEAS WITH THE UK DELEGATION.

5. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW, MOST INTERESETING ASPECT OF CONVERSATION REPORTED ABOVE IS INDICATION THAT THE GERMANS DON'T FEEL HIDE-BOUND BY PAST PRACTICES IN THE NPG, AND ARE PREPARED TO THINK FLEXIBLY ABOUT POSSIBLE WAYS TO GET THE ORGANIZATION TO RESPOND MORE DIRECTLY TO MINISTERIAL INTERESTS. AT SAME TIME, WE FEEL THAT "FREE DISCUSSION" OF SORT GERMANS SEEM TO SUGGEST COULD BECOME DIFFUSE AND PERHAPS UNSATISFYING TO MINISTERS. IN ORDER TO GIVE SOME FOCUS, IT WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE UNDER ANY SUCH APPROACH TO ESTABLISH SOME GENERAL HEADINGS IN ADVANCE, OR TO HAVE MINISTERS INDICATE PRIOR TO MEETINGS POSSIBLE SUBJECTS THEY WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS. IN ANY CASE, WE BELIEVE GERMAN IDEAS NEED TO BE PLACED IN CONTEXT OF BROADER CONSIDERATION OF HOW NPG DOES THINGS IN LIGHT OF REMARKS BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND OTHERS AT MONTEREY. WE ARE GIVING THOUGHT TO THIS SUBJECT AND EXPECT TO FORWARD VIEWS TO WASHINGTON SOON. IN THE MEANTIME, DOES WASHINGTON HAVE ANY REACTIONS TO THE GERMAN IDEAS THAT WE SHOULD PASS TO GERMAN DELEGATION? END COMMENT.
STREATOR

CONFIDENTIAL

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